

Phase One  
October 2006

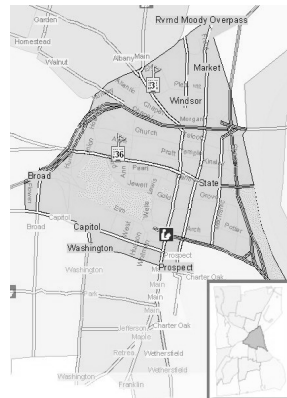
# Wireless Hartford!

For more info  
call 311  
or (860)757-9311

## Introducing Wireless Hartford!

On October 26, the City of Hartford is kicking off the first phase of Wireless Hartford — a new initiative that will provide low cost computers, training and wireless Internet access to Hartford residents in the Blue Hills and Downtown neighborhoods. This is part of my effort to close the digital divide in Hartford where two thirds of households don't have a working computer and Internet access. The Internet is the new gateway to employment resources, educational information and health information. While many suburban residents take Internet access for granted, most households in Hartford cannot afford to connect to the digital world. Wireless Hartford will ensure that more of our families leap the digital divide.

On October 26, residents in the Blue Hills and Downtown neighborhoods with access to a personal computer and a wireless card will be able to log onto Internet access through Wireless Hartford. Residents will be asked to



sign up for service and set up a user account. Residents must certify they are over the age of eighteen and agree to use the Internet in a lawful fashion. Prior to February 2007 Internet access will be free of charge as we work to fine tune the system. Beginning on February 2, 2007, Hartford households in the coverage area will receive a block of 20 hours of free Internet access per month with the option to purchase unlimited access at a discounted price. These funds will be used by the city to expand the initiative into other Hartford neighborhoods.

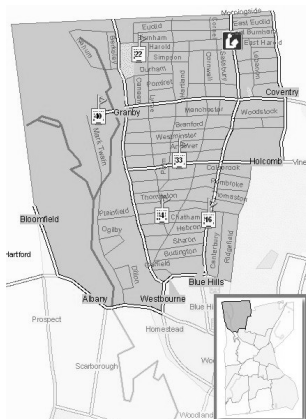
Beginning November 2, residents of the Downtown and Blue Hills Neighborhoods over the age of 18 who lack a household computer can purchase one of 900 available refurbished wireless ready computers for \$150 and receive training at the city training facility and computer depot at 121 Cornwall Street (the

old Breakthrough school). Residents must present a valid driver's license or other State issued Photo ID as well as a recent utility bill showing they reside in the Blue Hills or Downtown neighborhood. Computer sales will be limited to one per household for individuals who complete training. Checks and money orders should be made out to the City of Hartford, Wireless Hartford Program. The training center and depot will be open Tuesday and Thursday 2pm-8pm and Saturday 10am-3pm. Please call 311 (or 757-9311) to schedule a time to attend training and purchase a computer. Additional training on how to use computer applications will be available at the Hartford Public Library.

Wireless Hartford is an exciting new initiative that will help bring our city into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and bridge the digital divide for our families. Thank you for being part of the next era of Hartford's technological innovation.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ed Rios".



## Wireless Hartford Frequently Asked Questions

**How will wireless work?** Wireless access points ( antennas ) attached to city buildings and light poles transmit radio signals to computers in the surrounding areas equipped with wireless cards that allow the computers to access the internet via the city ' s fiber optic network. Though computers equipped with wireless cards should be able to access the Internet in almost all areas of the two target neighborhoods, certain obstructions may cause a weak signal. This may require the user to move their computer within the home to an area closer to an antenna. In some cases a signal booster may be required which can be purchased at most consumer electronic stores.

**What equipment is required to connect to receive wireless access?** A computer with an operational wireless network card installed. Your computer ' s operating system must support wireless connectivity. Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher is recommended.

**What operating systems are supported?** The preferred operating systems are Windows XP and Mac OS X 10.3

**What kind of wireless network card is required?** There are various types of wireless network cards. Some are integrated into the PC or laptop, while others attach through a USB or PCMCIA slot. While we do not recommend a specific brand, generally any card that is 802.11 b or 802.11 g compatible will work. If you buy a wireless network card from a store be certain to follow the manufacturer ' s installation directions.

**What are the wireless network configurations?** The SSID is WirelessHartford. The network is public ,therefore no security key is required.

**Will the Internet be available in my home?** Yes, the network is designed to provide connection in rooms on rooms that have an exterior wall. The connection may have interference from sources inside and outside the home including: 2.4 Ghz cordless phones, walls, trees, microwave ovens.

**Can more than one person use an account at the same time?** No, only one person can use the account at a time.

**What type of computers are being made available through the City program?** IBM or HP Pentium, 1.8Ghz-2.4 Ghz with 17 " CRT monitor, keyboard and mouse. PC ' s will have a preconfigured wireless network card installed. In addition to the Windows XP operating system, the computers will also have anti-virus and Free Office software installed. The computers have a 3 month warranty.

**What training is available?** Residents receiving a computer through this program will attend a brief training session focused on computer setup, connecting to the wireless network, and computer fundamentals. The Hartford Library <http://www.hplct.org> offers additional courses in many useful applications, computer skills and various Internet related activities.

### WIRELESS HARTFORD

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Hartford, CT 06103